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of the Roman Catholic church in 1590, forty-four years after its authorization by the highest ecclesiastical council of the church. The author gives a vivid and at the same time an attested historical statement of the entire proceeding, from documents published and in manuscript form, with full references and quotations.

GALL, AUGUST FREIHERR VON. *Die Papyrus-Urkunden der jüdischen Gemeinde in Elephantine in ihrer Bedeutung für jüdische Religion und Geschichte.* Giessen: Töpelmann, 1912. 26 pages. M. 0.60.

The University of Giessen seems to have had a theological conference at which von Gall delivered the discourse cited in our title. After discussing briefly the *provenance* of the Assuan papyri he presents translations of and quotations from some of the most striking texts. On the basis of the information given he concludes that the colony of Jews at Elephantine must date back to the time of Josiah. Evidence is seen in the statement of Deut. 17:16 and in the picture of worship which the papyri reveal in the temple of Jahu at Elephantine.

NIEBERGALL, FRIEDRICH. *Praktische Auslegung des Alten Testaments.* Band I, Weisheit und Lyrik. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck u. Ruprecht, 1912. viii+406 pages. M. 8.

It is rather novel to take up an up-to-date popular exposition of the Old Testament without getting lost in the intricacies of technical criticism. Niebergall breaks loose from former mechanical methods of viewing the Bible, and approaches it wholly from a practical point of view, practical as touching religion. He is not at all interested in the mental gymnastics of critical problems, but throws his entire energy into the spiritual value of the sacred volume. The center of the Scriptures is the salvation of Christ. That is the one thought about which everything in the Bible revolves. The Old Testament stands in two relations to that salvation, a historical and a psychological. The historical is designated by the word "Messianism"; and the psychological is expressed in the "Law" and its relations to God, and as preparatory to the reception of redemption. Both Messianism and the Law are set forth by Paul as forces that drive us to Christ.

CHURCH HISTORY

SAYER, A. G. WALPOLE. *The Sufficiency and Defects of the English Communion Service.* Cambridge University Press, 1911. $1.00.

Doubt or discredit had been thrown upon the Office of the English church by the interpolation by the celebrant of parts of the Unreformed Office. The object of this work is to disprove the charges of insufficiency, and the redundancy of such interpolations.

The author subjects the whole matter to a thorough examination beginning with the Scripture narratives, and reviewing the early references and accounts, the western liturgies, the First Prayer Book of Edward VI, the separation of the intercession from the consecration, absence of explicit invocation, and other central conceptions. Then follows a chapter of general conclusions in which the author thinks he has disproved any charge of insufficiency in the Office. He grants that there may be eccentricity of order, dislocation of structure, or sometimes poverty of expression, but the essentials are there.